

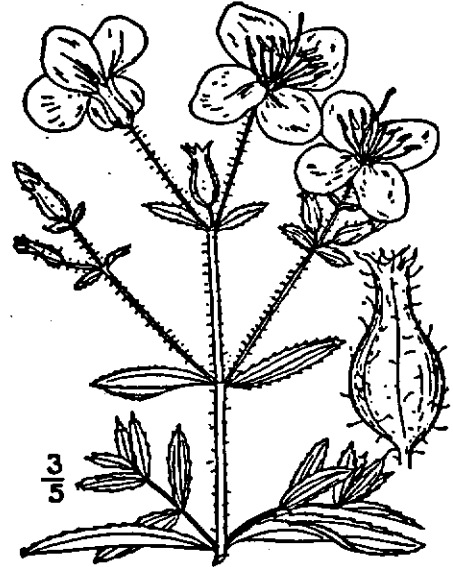
MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

MARYLAND MEADOW BEAUTY

(*Rhexia mariana* L.)

DESCRIPTION

Maryland Meadow Beauty is a perennial herb with slender, very pubescent (hairy) stems, either simple or branched, and 1-2' (28-61cm.) high. The oblong, or linear-oblong, leaves have scattered bristly hairs on both sides and are 1-1½" (2.5-3.8cm.) long. Its terminal flowers are light pink, with 4 lop-sided petals. The stamens are abruptly hooked, so that the yellow anthers angle downward. Flowering occurs from August to September; fruiting occurs from late August to October.



Britton, N.L. and N.A. Brown. An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada. Dover Publications, Inc. 1970 reprint of 1913 ed.

SIMILAR SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Virginia Meadow Beauty (*Rhexia virginica*) superficially resembles Maryland Meadow Beauty but is much less branched and has broader leaves. When in bloom they are easily distinguishable, as Virginia Meadow Beauty has dark pink to rose petals. Also, Virginia Meadow Beauty has a distinctly 4-sided, slightly winged stem which seldom grows over 10" tall.

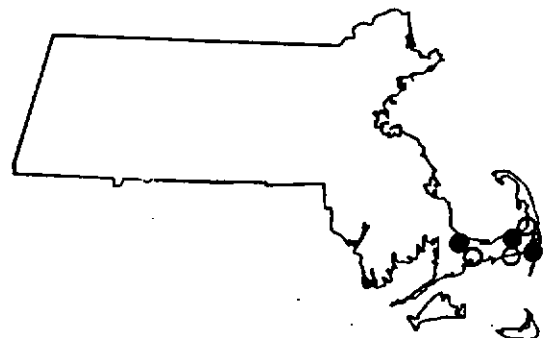
HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS

Maryland Meadow Beauty inhabits the upper margins of wet, peaty or sandy pond-shores on the coastal plain. It is dependent on fluctuating water levels and may not appear every year. Species found in association with Maryland Meadow Beauty include *Juncus* spp. (Rushes), *Agrostis scabra* (Tickle-grass), *Eleocharis melanocarpa* (Black-fruited Spike-rush), and *Sabatia kennedyana* (Plymouth Gentian).

(continued overleaf)



Distribution of Maryland Meadow Beauty



● Verified since 1978
○ Reported prior to 1978

Distribution in Massachusetts by Town

MARYLAND MEADOW BEAUTY (continued)

RANGE

Maryland Meadow Beauty is distributed on the coastal plain from southeastern Massachusetts to Florida, west to eastern Texas, inland locally to southeastern Missouri, southern Illinois, and southern Indiana.

POPULATION STATUS

Maryland Meadow Beauty is considered "Threatened" in Massachusetts. Currently (1978 to present), there have been only 5 occurrences verified; historically only 4 occurrences have been reported. Its rarity is in part due to its location here at the northern edge of its range. Also, recreational use and development around coastal plain ponds, as well as pondwater contamination from run-off, have adversely impacted the habitat for this species.